

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FRANKF 01954 141134Z
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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7469
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, GW, US, BR
SUBJ: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON FRG-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEAL

TWO MAJOR FRANKFURT PAPERS COMMENT EDITORIALY IN
THEIR MARCH 14 EDITIONS ON CURRENT US-GERMAN DISCUSSIONS
REGARDING THE BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEAL.

1. THE NATIONAL CIRCULATION PRO-SPD FRANKFURTER
RUNDSCHAU DEVOTES MAJOR PORTIION OF A SHORT EDITORIAL
ON WILLY BRANDT'S U.S. VISIT TO THE BRAZILIAN ISSUE AS
FOLLOWS: "THE DARKEST SHADOW OVER BILATERAL RELATIONS
(I.E. BETWEEN US AND FRG) IS CAST BY THE NUCLEAR
BUSINESS WITH BRAZIL WHICH AFTER BRANDT'S VISIT NOW
HAS TO BE ADDRESSED ALSO BY FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.
A SOLUTION DOES NOT YET SEEM TO BE IN SIGHT. HOWEVER,
BOTH SIDES HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS IS NO LONGER ONLY
A PROBLEM BETWEEN WASHINGTON, BRAZILIA AND BONN BUT
THAT MANY COUNTRIES AWAIT THE OUTCOME WITH INTENSE
INTEREST. SINCE THE UNITED STATES MOREOVER HAS
RECOGNIZED THAT IT CAN CONDUCT ONLY A POLICY OF
PERSUASION BUT NOT ONE OF THE BIG STICK THE BASIS
FOR AN UNDERSTANDING IS PERHAPS NOT QUITE AS HOPELESS
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AS IT STILL APPEARS TO BE."

2. MODERATELY PRO-CDU FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE DEVOTES
SIGNED LEAD EDITORIAL TO THE SUBJECT IN TERMS
SUGGESTING THOROUGH LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE ACTUAL
SITUATION. AFTER COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S
APPREHENSIONS THAT THE BRAZILIAN DEAL MIGHT OPEN THE

BACK DOOR TO A BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY,
EDITORIAL NOTES "REGRETFULLY" THAT AMERICAN NUCLEAR
INDUSTRY IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO SLOW DOWN GERMAN
COMPETITION IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN MARKET AND THAT

SUBSEQUENTLY U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS AND PRESIDENT
CARTER'S IDEALISM HAVE THE SAME EFFECT. EDITORIAL
GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE FRG CANNNOT BE RECALLED BY
ANYONE FROM ITS COMMITMENT TO BRAZIL AND MOREOVER THAT
GERMANY CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE ITS HIGH TECHNICAL
STANDARD IN THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY NEUTRALIZED BY EXPORT
PROHIBITIONS. "THE U.S. AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ARE
THE ONLY COUNTRIES WHO COULD OFFER THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION
PACKAGE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY AT ITS MOST HIGHLY
DEVELOPED LEVEL. FOR THE SAKE OF CURRENT AND FUTURE
JOBS THE GERMANS CANNOT DEPRIVE THEMSELVES OF
THIS EXPORT INDUSTRY". EDITORIAL GOES ON TO
SAY THAT THE NECESSARY COMPROMISE CAN MEET THE
POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONCERNS OF THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION BUT CANNOT RELEGATE THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC TO THE STATUS OF TECHNOLOGICAL HAVE-NOTS.
IT CONCLUDES THAT IF GENSCHER CAN MAKE NO PROGRESS
DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT THAN THE CHANCELLOR
SHOULD FLY TO WAHINGTON PERSONALLY. LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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